

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and remarks submitted herein. Claims 1-35 have been canceled and new claims 36-159 have been added. The Examiner indicated in the October 7, 2003 Office Action that claims 21-27, 31, and 32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicant does not acquiesce to the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has rewritten claims 21-27, 31, and 32. New claim 36 corresponds to canceled claim 21; new claims 37-39 correspond to canceled claims 22-24, respectively; new claim 60 corresponds to canceled claim 25; new claim 81 corresponds to canceled claim 26; new claim 82 corresponds to canceled claim 27; new claim 108 corresponds to canceled claim 31; and new claim 134 corresponds to canceled claim 32. All remaining new claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 36, 60, 81, 108, or 134 and correspond to canceled claims 2-20, 28-30, and 33-35. Therefore, claims 36-159 added herein do not introduce new matter. Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1-10, 14-17, 30 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Border (U.S. Patent No. 5,935,127) in view of Matthews (U.S. Patent No. 5,779,705). Claims 1-3, 7-8, 14-20 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moehring (U.S. Patent No. 4,846,162) in view of Matthews. Claims 1-3, 7-8, 14-15, 17-20, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Durham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,106,528) in view of Matthews. Claims 1, 4-8, and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cole et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,221,074) in view of Matthews. Claims 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Border in view of Allen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,979,658). Claims 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Border in view of Matthews in further view of Cachia et al. (U.S. Application No. 2001/0049529).

Applicant has canceled claims 1-35 and submitted new claims 36-159. As indicated above, new claims 36-159 correspond to claims that were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103.

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Page : 16 of 16

Attorney's Docket No.: 09531-076001 / Z01088

Therefore, Applicant submits that the rejections of claims 1-20, 28-30, and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103 are moot.

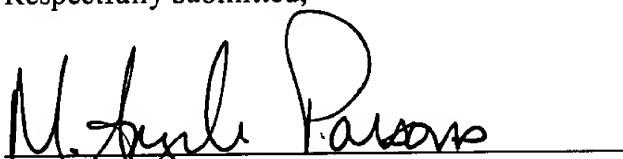
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 36-159. Enclosed is a \$1,747 check (\$385 for Request for Examination Fee, \$887 for excess claim fees, and \$475 for a Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time fee). Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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